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NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CXVIII.

JAPANESE IMPRESSIONS.

In 1935 my wife and I spent six weeks in JAPAN. We also travelled from COLOMBO to KOBE and back on a Japanese ship, so that we were in a Japanese atmosphere for between two and three months. Not long enough to gain a deep knowledge of the country and its people, but sufficiently long to give us a number of reasonable impressions.

Most of all were we impressed with the keenness of the Japanese on making themselves efficient. That this keenness is not a mere matter of sentiment, but has its extremely practical side is shown by the enormous progress which JAPAN has made during the past eighty or ninety years. Nor is JAPAN satisfied with the vast progress which she has made already. Her ambition is great. She wishes to go on to greater and greater heights and takes every step which she can think of to fit herself for so doing. The Jap regrets that he is such a little person, and is out for making himself bigger and taller. To this end he has become much more of a meat-eater than he was in the past, as he thinks that by eating meat he will improve his physique. It is for the same purpose that large numbers of Japanese youths can be seen going through courses of strenuous physical exercises. It is also, I think, for the same reason that the Japanese do not keep late hours. If there is any night life, going on till the small hours of the morning, in the big cities of JAPAN, it is certainly not advertised or thrust on the attention of the tourist. At a theatre the performance will begin at 5 or 6 o' clock in the afternoon and will finish by 9 o' clock. At a dancing hall the ordinary hour for closing

down is 11 p. m. We found one at OSAKA which went on till midnight, but such lateness was exceptional. Punctuality is regarded as the hand-maid of efficiency, and is very strictly observed. The ships on which we travelled always arrived at and left their ports precisely at the advertised times, and it is the same with trains. They can be relied upon to arrive at and leave their stations to the tick. The trains do not run at any break-neck pace, but they run very smoothly and are very comfortable. On our ships the stewards were quite worried if any passengers were late for their meals, and would send for them and ask them to come quickly to the dining saloon.

Nobody can outdo the Jap in the outward forms of politeness. No doubt courtesy and good manners are very agreeable, but they can be carried to excess, and there is, or was, a little too much of them in the case of the Japanese. At any rate, in regard to their attitude towards foreigners, it always seemed to me that, though they did not betray the fact in any overt way, they did not really care for them. They might like them as tourists who came and spent their money in the country, but they somehow let it be understood that they meant to be very much masters in their own home. They had learned a great deal from the foreigner, and were ready to go on learning from him any thing which might be useful, but they were not going to be bossed by him. Even the English language, though it is useful in Japan as it is in most parts of the world, is not of as much service there as it generally is elsewhere. One may go into quite an important looking store in the hope of making some purchase, to find that there is no one there to whom one can make known ones wants. When one goes out again, having bought nothing, that seems to be a matter of indifference to the people of the store. As men of business generally the Japanese are said by people with long experience of commerce in the Far East to be far less pleasant to deal with than are the Chinese. At first they attract by being very charming and, as it would appear, accommodating, but as time goes on it is found that their seeming straightforwardness is a cloak for a good deal of duplicity and cunning. In my own experience, however, I did not at all find them given to acts of petty dishonesty. In the various hotels in which we stayed, I never experienced, or heard of any, pilfering, and I came across one instance in which honesty was carried almost to excess. I had engaged a taxi at KYOTO, and when I came to pay off the driver, I found that the smallest coin which I had with me was much in excess of his legal fare. I gave him this coin, and, as I could not speak his language—neither could he speak mine, I tried to indicate that I did not want any change, he having none about him. To emphasise my intention I proceeded to walk away, but after I had gone about 100 yards he came running after me with the change, which we had in the meantime procured. I cannot imagine such a thing happening in any other country of which I have had experience.

JAPAN has a number of beautiful temples which are pretty rather than grand, but the people did not strike me as being very religious. The country has two main religions, the Buddhist and the Shinto, and these get along in perfect harmony with each other and without any rivalry. People who are really keen on their faith are not as a rule too tolerant of the faith of others. The Japanese, however, certainly have a reverence for their Emperor, which borders on a religious feeling. This reverence is encouraged by the fact that the Emperor very rarely makes a public appearance. And, if ever he happens to pass through the streets, all persons who happen to be upstairs along the route he has to take, have to come down to the ground floor, as no one must be allowed to look down upon him.

JAPAN has only one mountain, Fujiyama, which is remarkable in that it stands up by itself and is not connected with any range. The country however, is hilly, and down these hills flow many streams of which advantage is taken to get an abundant supply of electricity. There is plenty of rain in Japan, and there is no fear of these streams ever running dry. And so electric light will be seen burning even in small villages. JAPAN is also up to date in its telephone service which is excellent and extensive. The people generally seemed happy and contented despite the fact that wages are very low. It is because of the lowness of wages that things in JAPAN are so cheap to buy. Sometimes, indeed, the wages are nil. The waitresses at hotels are engaged for five years during which they are supposed to be learning their work, and all through that time they are given their food and their dress and nothing more. When the period of apprenticeship is over and when they would in future be entitled to some wages, they are discharged, and a fresh lot of girls is taken on.

For a long time it was the fashion to look upon the Japanese with some amusement as a race of bustling little people who made a number of artistic and rather useless knick knacks, notably among them little boxes, to open which is a puzzle; whose women did their hair in a way that was as extraordinary as it was uncomfortable, and who lived in cardboard houses, to or from which rooms could be added or subtracted in a few minutes by means of a few more or a few less boards. In 1935 there were still plenty of knick knacks on sale—there was profit in them—but the peculiar coiffures were not much to be seen, probably because they are not practical. It may well be for the same reason that in the big towns so many women are now to be seen wearing European dress. And, while the old style of house has by no means disappeared, one also sees large blocks of houses and buildings of a most substantial kind. JAPAN does not stagnate but is all the time progressing towards what she believes to be her goal. Articles which were slightly contemptuous of her were to be seen in American magazines even very shortly before her entry into the war. How mistaken those articles were has been

shown by the events of the past few months. The Japanese are by no means to be despised but are a clever and determined people, with a great gift for organisation and adaptation, and when to all their elaborate preparations, their belief in themselves and their contempt of death is added their notion as to "saving face", it is clear that they will take a deal of punishment before they admit defeat.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

17—10—42 to 23—10—42.

Russia.—The present assault on STALINGRAD is no doubt the attack promised by Hitler in his recent speech. Sorties amounting to 1,500 a day have been made and at immense cost the Germans have succeeded in taking a narrow area in the industrial area—probably the Dzerjinskv tractory factory With the struggle approaching the banks cf the Volga the arrival of supplies across the river is becoming more and more difficult.

Down on the Mozdok front a fighting no less fierce than at STALINGRAD is proceeding, but with results equally barren.

South-east of NOVOROSSISK, after a stubborn battle, the Russians were forced to evacuate two inhabited localities ; but the enemy has made no further progress.

Ferocious as the German attacks have been, the gains of the week, on the whole, have been no more than a bite out of STALINGRAD and as the *Times* has pointed out the days of major operations would seem to be numbered. Winter is approaching.

The Nazis are busy finding a line which they can hold during winter. It does not appear they have yet reached this line. To do so they should capture STALINGRAD and the lower Volga.

The Solomons.—Oct. 12—flying fortresses shelled BUKA and set fire to a cargoship at BUIN.

Oct. 13.—Enemy aircraft attacked the GUADALCANAR air-fields.

Oct. 14–15.—Enemy ships shelled Allied positions on ESPIRITU SANTO ISLAND in NEW HEBRIDES.

Oct. 15.—Enemy transports and shore positions in GUADALCANAR were bombed. Enemy landed transports and troops on GUADALCANAR.

Oct. 15-16.—Enemy surface vessels bombarded Allied positions on GUADALCANAR. Allied aircraft made an attack on enemy shipping east of the SOLOMONS.

Oct. 16.—Army Fortresses, and Navy and Marine Corps aircraft attacked enemy troops and equipment on the north-eastern end of GUADALCANAR.

Oct. 17.—Enemy bombers and fighters attacked the Allied air-fields on GUADALCANAR.

Oct. 18, 19.—Army and Navy Marine corps aircraft bombed enemy troops and supply concentrations in the SOLOMONS area. The landing of Japanese troops has ceased for the time being.

New Guinea.—Allied ground forces have forced the enemy north of Templeton's Crossing. The Japanese has thus been driven from the Razobrack ridges of the Owen-Stanley mountains, from which they could have easily defended themselves.

The Aleutians.—The attack on KISKA continues.

China.—Chinese troops raided Japanese positions east of CANTON on Oct. 6, inflicting considerable casualties. The engagements were frequent in the KINHWA, LANCHI and TUNGYANG areas.

Burma.—U. S. Army aircraft raided LASHIO on Thursday last. A warehouse was heavily damaged.

Madagascar.—British troops advancing from ANTANANARIVO have occupied AMBOSITRA to the south.

Air Raids.—R. A. F. bombers made a concentrated attack on KIEL, GERMANY's greatest port and naval base. Fighters of the Command destroyed two Junkers over the Bay of Biscay. LE CRCUSOT, about 170 miles south-east of PARIS, the centre of the French armaments factory comparable to KRUPPS at ESSEN, was bombed; other targets of the week were Axis Mediterranean bases, including TOBRUK, FUKA, SOLLUM and DABA.

Malta.—The renewed Axis offensive on the Island lasted from Oct. 10 to Oct. 15. The total enemy loss was 98 planes and 220 flying personnel.

Liberia.—American troops have arrived in LIBERIA in West AFRICA. R. A. F. patrols have been established in LIBERIA to counter the U-boat menace.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date / Targets	Damage caused by air bombardment	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
12—10—42 (Monday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY:—			
No information available.			
NIGHT:—			
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.			
EGYPT and LIBYA.			
Petrol lorries, road transport and a schooner in the battle area.			
Air combats over the battle area.			2 planes.
Targets at TOBRUK.			
Offensive sweeps over EL DABA.			
SICILY.			
Offensive Reconnaissance over SICILY.			1 plane.
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Russian front.			
FAR EAST.			
NEW GUINEA.			
Sweeps along a trail towards BUNA.			
Jap bridge at WAIROPI.			
SOLOMONS.			
The airfield at BUKA.	1 cruiser sunk;		
Jap landing barges and ships covered by warships off the north coast of GUADALCANAR.	1 cruiser damaged; 5 destroyers sunk; 1 transport sunk.		
A cargo ship at BUIN.			
ALEUTIANS.			
Shipping in KISKA harbour.			

Date. / Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
13—10—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT:—			
The port and naval base of KIEL.	9 bombers.		
Patrol over the Bay of BISCAY.			3 planes.
EGYPT and LIBYA.			
Patrol over the battle area.			4 planes.
Offensive sweeps over the southern sector at EL ALAMEIN and DABA.			2 planes.
Shipping at TOBRUK harbour.	A large ship hit twice.		
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire Eastern Front.			
FAR EAST.			
NEW BRITAIN.			
Runaways and dispersal areas of aerodromes at RABAUL.			
Installations in the town of RABAUL.			
NEW GUINEA.			
The Wairopi bridge near KOKODA.			
The air base at BUNA.			
TIMOR.			
DILLI.			
SOLOMONS.			
The aerodrome at BUKA.			
Enemy ships south of NEW GEORGIA Island			
BURMA.			
Targets in the GANGAW area.			

14—10—42 (Wednesday)

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

DAY:—

Barges, a goods train and railway engines in HOLLAND.

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy waters.

EGYPT and LIBYA.

Docks, main jetties and petrol installations at TOBRUK. — Big fire was started.

Targets at SOLLUM.

Transport vehicles near SIDI HANEISH.

Landing grounds at EL DABA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire battlefield.

FAR EAST

NEW GUINEA.

The aerodrome at BUNA.

SOLOMONS.

Jap ships in the vicinity of BUKA.

Enemy planes on the beach at REKATA Bay.

ALEUTIANS.

The camp area at KISKA.

Enemy seaplanes in the waters near KISKA.

15—10—42 (Thursday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

DAY:—

The docks at LE HAVRE. — 1 plane.

NIGHT:—

Industrial objectives in the RHINELAND including COLOGNE.

Offensive patrol over occupied territory.

EGYPT and LIBYA.

Enemy transport and armoured vehicles in the battle area.
Air combats over the battle area.
The harbour installations at TOBRUK.
} 6 planes.

CRETE.

Air duel over CRETE. — 1 plane.

RUSSIA.

Air combats over the Eastern battle front.

FAR EAST.

NEW GUINEA.

Enemy positions near Templeton's Crossing.

Enemy installations at SALAMAUA.

The enemy positions at WAIROPI.

TIMOR.

Enemy occupied village of ALIEU.

SOLOMONS.

An enemy light-cruiser near FAISI.

Enemy transports near the landing grounds.

ALEUTIAN Islands.

An enemy cargo ship near KISKA. — Sunk. — 1 plane.

Two Jap destroyers north-east of KISKA.

BURMA.

The aerodrome at LASHIO. — A warehouse destroyed. — No loss.

16—10—42 (Friday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

DAY:—

A factory at HENGELO.
Railway engines in HOLLAND.
} No loss.

Shipping off the FRENCH Coast — One ship hit.

EGYPT and LIBYA.

The harbour and shipping at BENGHAZI.

The landing grounds at EL DABA.

Patrol over the battle area.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
16—10—42 (Friday)—cont.				
	RUSSIA.			
	Air combats all over the battlefield.			
	FAR EAST.			
	NEW GUINEA.			
	The aerodrome at BUNA.			
	Enemy positions at SALAMAUA.			
	ALEUTIAN Islands.			
	KISKA.			
	SOLOMONS.			
	Enemy troops and equipment on the north-east coast of GUADALCANAR.			
17—10—42 (Saturday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY:—				
	Railway and other targets in HOLLAND.			
	The SCHNEIDER armaments works at LE CREUSOT (170 miles south-east of PARIS).	The whole factory area gutted.	1 plane.	
NIGHT:—				
	Laying mines in enemy waters.			
	EGYPT and LIBYA.			
	East bound enemy transport vehicles on the road between SIDI BARRANI and SOLLUM.			
	An enemy merchantship near the coast of TRIPOLITANIA.			
	A landing ground near EL DABA.			
	Air patrol over the battle area.			
	RUSSIA.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Russian Front.	For the week Oct. 10th to 17th.	49 planes.	130 planes.
	FAR EAST.			
	NEW GUINEA.			
	Enemy positions near the Templeton's Crossing.			
	Enemy occupied areas and villages in the vicinity of MUBO.			
	NEW BRITAIN.			
	The harbour at RABAUL.			
	SHORTLAND Islands.			
	A large enemy transport near the ISLANDS.			
	SOLOMONS.			
	The aerodrome and fuel dumps at BUKA.			
	ALEUTIANS.			
	Ships beached in the harbour at KISKA.			
18—10—42 (Sunday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY:—				
	Offensive patrols over Northern FRANCE.			
	Railway engines and anti-aircraft gun posts in Northern FRANCE.		No loss.	1 plane.
NIGHT:—				
	Laying mines in enemy waters.			
	EGYPT and LIBYA.			
	An enemy train between EL ALAMEIN and MATIN BAGUSH.	A violent explosion started.		
	Landing grounds at FUKA.			
	Landing grounds and buildings at SOLLUM.			
	The harbour installations at TOBRUK.			
	Enemy vehicles on TOBRUK coastal road.			
	Landing grounds at EL DABA.			
	RUSSIA.			
	Air combats all over the Eastern Front.			

FAR EAST.

NEW GUINEA.

Enemy positions at Templeton's Crossing.

Enemy-occupied village of MUBO.

Enemy positions in the WAIROPI area.

NEW BRITAIN.

An enemy sea-plane off the south coast. Destroyed.

MANUS Islands.

An enemy weather-reporting vessel in LORENGAU harbour.

ALEUTIANS.

KISKA.

SOLOMONS.

The advanced naval and air base at BUIN.

Seaplane tender and cargo vessels off BUIN.

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
13—10—42 (Tuesday).			
BRITAIN.			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.	More than 50 planes damaged.	25 planes.	5 planes & 3 pilots safe.
RUSSIA.			
STALINGRAD.			
The pantoon bridge across VOLGA east of STALINGRAD.			
FAR EAST.			
SOLOMONS.			
The American air-field at GUADALCANAR.			

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies.
14—10—42 (Wednesday).			
BRITAIN.			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.		23 planes.	
RUSSIA.			
STALINGRAD.			
Russian positions in the Mozdok area.			
FAR EAST.			
SOLOMONS.			
The air base at GUADALCANAR.		19 planes.	1 plane.
15—10—42 (Thursday).			
BRITAIN.			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.			
RUSSIA.			
STALINGRAD.			
FAR EAST.			
SOLOMONS.			
The air base at GUADALCANAR		4 planes.	
16—10—42 (Friday).			
BRITAIN.			
NIGHT:— South-east coast of ENGLAND.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.		6 planes.	
RUSSIA.			
STALINGRAD.			
FAR EAST.			
SOLOMONS.			
The aerodrome at GUADALCANAR.			
American transports approaching the GUADALCANAR area.			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
17—10—42 (Saturday).				
	BRITAIN.			
	No information available.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.		8 planes.	
	RUSSIA.			
	STALINGRAD.			
	FAR EAST SOLOMONS.			
	The air base at GUADALCANAR.			
18—10—42 (Sunday).				
	BRITAIN.			
	No information available.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.			
	RUSSIA.			
	STALINGRAD.			
	FAR EAST. SOLOMONS.			
	American positions in the GUADALCANAR area.			
19—10—42. (Monday).				
	BRITAIN.			
	DAY:— East ANGLIA and THAMES Estuary.		2 planes.	
	NIGHT:— No enemy air activity.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.			
	RUSSIA.			
	STALINGRAD.			
	FAR EAST. SOLOMONS.			
	The aerodrome at GUADALCANAR.			

SIDE LIGHTS.

TRAFALGAR DAY. To-day (Oct. 21), as we write, is Trafalgar Day —a day which enthroned BRITAIN on the Seven Seas—and settled the fate and future of EUROPE for centuries—the day when Nelson smashed French Power on the sea. A hundred and thirty seven years ago, to-day, a conqueror just as ambitions as, and more skilled in the arts of war than, the present Austrian wall-painter appeared on the European scene. He had also his 'Victory' a day, and states and monarchs fell as he marched from triumph to triumph. There was a day, there was an hour, when EUROPE was GAUL'S and GAUL was his. But a strip of sea between him and his western neighbour thwarted all his hopes. Albion's white cliffs

tantalisingly stood so near and yet so far away from him. BRITTANIA ruled the waves. TRAFALGAR was the symbol of this power, and Nelson, the type of British heroism that baffled him, calm yet deep like the blue sea, mighty and strong like the Atlantic. Nelson's watchword is the eternal call of every motherland to her sons—the call of duty to every man. What would the world be to-day, how nearer to victory, if in response to this century and a half old call of the greatest sailor since the world began, every one would do his duty. This is the message of TRAFALGAR.

And it is not its only lesson. It also reminds that victory at sea is also victory on land. It is a timely lesson when an unwary world dazzled by Hitler's spectacular marches may be misled into thinking that he is winning. So Napoleon seemed to succeed before he fell. It seemed that he had no more worlds to conquer except a tiny island. But it was this island's sea power that finally broke him, master of EUROPE as he was. Britain's Navy held him in its grip, crippled and starved him till he met his fate at WATERLOO at the hands of the Iron Duke. Sea Power was and is yet the winning factor in war: it is going to decide Hitler's fate as it did Napoleon's.

We say this though aware of the immense changes that have come over sea-warfare since TRAFALGAR. Who does not know that it now means new menaces—the submarine, the long range aircraft, the mine, both magnetic and acoustic.

New dangers, new measures. The answer is the mine-sweeper, the destroyer and the A. A; fabulous increases in ship-building, new types of battleships, bigger sizes and the latest inventions. So Naval power will still be the decisive, the dominant factor.

Though the TRAFALGAR of this war has not yet been fought—enemy navies, though in being are not in sight yet—the record of the British Navy is worthy of its glorious past. Besides the endless vigil on the sea for over three years now, besides the ceaseless blockade of the seas and the constant convoying of ships in dangerous waters—to name the Arctic only as an instance, she has won outstanding successes in naval engagements, *Graf Spee, Bismarck*, DUNKIRK, TARANTO, and MATAPAN, to name only a few. A TRAFALGAR, may yet be fought. The spirit of TRAFALGAR lives and inspires: this is what matters.

On TRAFALGAR Day we cannot help musings—a glide into the historic past. We recall Pitt's noble sentences spoken just after TRAFALGAR when he was thanked as the saviour of EUROPE: Churchill might have spoken so after the Battle of BRITAIN: 'Gentlemen,' said Pitt, 'I return you many thanks for the honour you have done me; but EUROPE is not to be saved by any single man. ENGLAND has saved herself by her exertions, and will, as I trust, save EUROPE by her example.'

And so we slip into a temptation to compare Hitler and Napoleon. Though Hitler has 'conquered' vast spaces in EUROPE and is introducing a 'New Order', like Napoleon, though now, as then, BRITAIN is the chief opponent and a British Prime Minister the chief obstacle, Napoleon was a more formidable enemy, a foeman more worthy of British steel. Militarily, Napoleon was the greatest soldier that EUROPE had produced since the days of Alexander and Caesar. Hitler's strategy in comparison is pinchbeck, muddled, hysterical. Napoleon, it is true, committed barbarities but he was not the savage that Hitler is: he was a child of the Revolution. He conquered, as the propagandist of Equality, Liberty and Fraternity. But only those who suffer from lunacy will regard Hitler as a liberator or as one with a mission. Conquered EUROPE paid willing homage to the great French ideals, but Hitler can hold down a conquered EUROPE only with planes above and a police and army below.

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THE CHANGING NAZI STRATEGY. The latest speeches of Hitler, Goering and Goebbels indicate a change coming in German plans, a change over from offensive to defensive in strategy : GERMANY's striking power hitherto depended mainly on the absence of foes, at several points, except on the Russian side. So she could concentrate and strike hard at one point at a time. But even this had proved costly, as SEBASTOPOL and ROSTOV and STALINGRAD have shown. GERMANY now knows that with the growth of Anglo-American strength new arenas will open, compelling a dispersion of forces along the European circumference. Concentration will no longer be possible. Defensive strategy is the alternative.

At his recent speech Hitler said that after the capture of STALINGRAD exploitation of RUSSIA would begin. It does not mean that the Wehrmacht would not take the offensive occasionally but the main pre-occupation will be the consolidation of conquered EUROPE and its conversion into a self sufficient fortress capable of withstanding a protractsd Anglo-American siege. The experience of last winter and present summer had shown how so far as central and northern RUSSIA were concerned the Russians could be kept off by a line of fortifications such as now stands along RZHEV, BRIANSK, VYASMA, OREL and KHARKOV. The plan for the future is to extend this defensive line to the Volga and if possible to the Caspian and the Black Sea and so complete a continuous defensive wall. Thus a new technique has emerged which is to hold the Russians indefinitely beyond a defensive line. Hitler also hopes that with the loss of iron, coal and oil that she has now sustained RUSSIA will eventually collapse.

Hitler's strategy for the West is similar. The whole European coastline—Arctic, Atlantic and Mediterranean has been converted into a continuous line of fortifications. On this side Hitler hopes to reduce Anglo-American strength by an increasing use of the U-boat.

Having thus locked EUROPE on all sides, Hitler further plans to exploit RUSSIA for her wheat, iron and oil, and the other states for slave labour for her huge armament factories. All internal resistance would be killed by the destruction of the recalcitrants, mass deportation and other methods of frightfulness.

The plan is simple enough if it would work. But it ignores the fact that the Russian Army is still intact, with supplies coming freely along lines of communication still open. The Nazi defensive line in RUSSIA already too long will become longer still by its extension to the south. Russian counter-attacks are becoming more and more violent. On the western front the difficulties of an Anglo-American offensive are no doubt great but not insurmountable as DIEPPE has shown. The U-boat is being mastered surely if slowly.

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A BARBAROUS GANG. Not satisfied with their latest brutality of manacling British prisoners of war the Germans have now instigated their partners in crime to similar action. Goaded, or it would be truer to say, whipped and commanded, the Italian Press and Radio now charge BRITAIN with systematically attacking the Red Cross emblems, machine-gunning men who have fallen into the sea from torpedoed ships, and shooting soldiers taken prisoners in the desert. What a discovery after 3 years of war! But all this is nothing compared with the demoniac announcement that JAPAN has recently made. The Japanese Commander-in-Chief for National Defence has stated that 'crews of enemy-aircraft taken prisoner would be placed before a military court and condemned to death or severely punished if they were found guilty of inhuman acts in air-attacks in the Japanese empire or territories under Japanese control', in other words they would be executed or tortured after the farce of a trial. He has also announced that American prisoners captured in the TOKYO raid on April 18 had been already so dealt with. This is Bushido! But it need cause no surprise; it is only a repetition of the Bushido which bombs undefended cities, MANILA being the latest instance; the Bushido of the wounded Japanese soldier who lately killed an American Marine at GUADALCANAR while he was bringing succour.

It need not be added that this latest Japanese monstrosity has filled the civilised world with horror and disgust. Stalin was not far wrong when he said that our duty is first to hate these gangsters. In the words of Col. Frank Knox it is 'a descent to the lowest levels of barbarism'.

SLAVE LABOUR. Laval's promise to supply 1,50,000 French workers to slave in the German factories is not going to be carried out. With the Zero hero or the original time limit for recruitment expiring on October 15, and with 1,33,000 workers yet to go, the period has been extended to the end of October. The registration of workers between the ages of 18 and 50 began on October 19 and the Nazis have also issued a warning that if the workers did not go voluntarily they would be compelled. But Laval is not going to succeed. The first protest has come from LYONS—the industrial capital of Southern FRANCE, where nearly half a million men struck work. Anti-Vichy organisations all over the country are protesting. Laval dare not adopt extreme measures as it would mean the end of the Vichy Government. 'Very hard moments to be lived through,' says the old Marshal over the radio and M. Chasseignet, the Vichy Director of Propaganda has added, 'We are facing tragedy.'

In a 20 minutes talk over the Radio on October 20, Laval appealed more urgently than ever before to French workers to go to GERMANY. He said that he had an assurance that the decree recruiting labour in PARIS would not apply to unoccupied FRANCE if the commitments were respected, and that if French workers left for GERMANY, the German government had promised that the wives of French prisoners in German hands might go to GERMANY to live with their husbands.

In answer, on the same day General de Gaulle leader of Fighting France sounded over the radio the *Aux Armes*—France's historic call to arms—and said:—

"French soldiers in the East, in AFRICA and in the Pacific, French sailors on enemy sea, and airmen, in every sky, forward!

"Workers, peasants, bourgeois and priests who suffer and fight on every inch of the motherland, courage!

"Resistance groups, whose mission it is to organise and lead the French masses in the great battle of national revolution, we are all marching in step to the same battle, under the same flag, just as one day I promise you we shall all be merged, comrades in the hosts of victory!

"Treason—that is to say Vichy—is now redoubling its energies to paralyse France. 'Father Defeat' very accurately defined the nature of these transactions. 'France must be defended against herself.'

"France has sensed the desperation underlying the feverish activity of traitors and is now passing to general resistance. Scoundrels who think they can serve their own interests rather than those of the nation will reap no gain from their shame or their errors. That which is indivisible will never be divided."

A BRACING VISIT. General Wavell's recent visit to the North-Eastern Frontier had, we are glad to report, a heartening effect not only on the troops—British and Indian, keeping vigil on the frontier but also on the people and chiefs inside BURMA. His tour was not only in the nature of an inspection—now the fifth of its kind, since General Alexander crossed the Chindwin but—also of a visit to the neighbouring areas of enemy-occupied BURMA. Travelling by car, rail and plane, and sometimes on foot the General penetrated far into Burmese territory—an area which the Japanese have been boasting he would never enter again except as a prisoner of war. When he appeared on Burmese soil the news spread quickly and in less than half an hour the local Burmese potentate met him in full procession, complete with elephants and other paraphernalia and presented him with a Dah in an elaborate red-and-gold scabbard, and followed it up with an earnest request for his country's liberation from the Japanese yoke, or to be more precise, for liberation from 'starvation with which Japanese oppression now threatened them.'

The Imperial forces on the frontier were thrilled and cheered by the General's renewed visit. We are told it had a tonic effect on them.

From the officers on reconnoitering duty the General received valuable information not only of the enemy's movements but of new jungle and mountain routes leading into BURMA. During his inspection of the men he observed the jungle training they were receiving; such as to make ropes, bridges and boats, and to live a simple life close to nature depending more or less wholly on the country where they had camped.

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A SIGNIFICANT VISIT. Field-Marshal Smuts, Premier of South-AFRICA, is now in ENGLAND. One of the outstanding personalities now in the Empire, with Churchill, he belongs to the elder category of statesman. Soldier and scholar, he has, for a generation, played a leading part in shaping the destinies of the South African Union. In the present war South AFRICA's part in LIBYA and East AFRICA has been considerable. With the closure of the Mediterranean the use of the Cape has increased. With the Japanese entry into the Indian Ocean, South AFRICA has also, in a way, entered the war zone. Hence the part that South AFRICA is now taking in occupying MADAGASCAR. General Smuts is one of the wisest of our leaders, and his counsel has been frequently sought. His occasional flights to CAIRO, inspite of heavy responsibilities at home, have been to consult and be consultsd. His present visit, there is no doubt, will lead to important results.

CIRCUM-AVIATION. Wendell Willkie's global tour is just over and he is now back in WASHINGTON to report to President Roosevelt on the results of his mission. His is the first all-air-passenger trip round the world, and the first journey, also, from CHINA to U. S. A. *via* ALASKA. Whatever travellers' tales this Marco Polo may have brought and whatever their military importance, there is no doubt he has set up a record for a new form of Round-The-World trip. He has set folks talking. His plane appropriately named 'Gulliver', he has visited, if not LILLIPUT and BROBDINGNAG, strange men and countries, with a civilisation far different from his own. He has shown himself a vivacious, if not, so responsible a critic as could have been expected from a special envoy from the President of the UNITED STATES. While in RUSSIA, he advocated a second front, while in TURKEY, neutrality, and while in CHINA, international equality. But his best service was to convince the world, that in U. S. A. the opposition was united with the Government Party in a vigorous prosecution of the war. Wendell Willkie is the leader of the opposition in the U. S. Legislature.

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PRODUCTION TRIUMPH. The forecast that American shipping production would soon reach an average of a million tons monthly has been more than realised. In September, 93 cargo vessels totalling 1,009,800 tons were produced. The aggregate production to the end of September was 5,45,000 tons, and with an average of only 850,000 tons for the next three months, President Roosevelt's goal of 8 million tons for 1942 should surely be reached at the end of the year. The Vice-Chairman of the U. S. Marine Commission has promised 4 ships a day from January.

The U. S. Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce announces the rate of plane production to have exceeded 4,000 a month, and to be approaching the next thousand. If so, President Roosevelt's demand for 5,000 a month would soon be achieved.

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MALTA has had a fresh visitation from the *Luftwaffe* and has mauled it again as on the previous occasions. During the five days of attack (Oct. 10–15) the Germans lost 98 planes and 220 flying personnel. The Island Fortress has suffered no damage practically.

Whenever the raid on MALTA is intensified it may be presumed that Rommel has run short of supplies or is asking for more. It may be remembered that last time when the AFRICA Corps was reinforced MALTA came in for a severe aerial attack. Movements of enemy shipping in the Mediterranean also lead to the conclusion that supplies are being sent to LIBYA. A U. S. air force attacked an Axis convoy south of CRETE during the week.

CAPE PALMAS, where it is reported that U-boats are concentrated is in VICHY French West AFRICA between LIBERIA and the French IVORY COAST, on the tip of the 'bulge' nearest to South AMERICA. U-boats operating here may receive supplies from DAKAR and prey on American and Atlantic shipping to South AFRICA, INDIA, the MIDDLE EAST and South AMERICA. The landing of U. S. troops in LIBERIA thus becomes significant.

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THE CAPE MENACED. The war has entered on a new phase with the appearance of U-boats off the Cape. Driven from the American coast-line by the offensive and defensive measures taken by the Allies they have now begun to infest the South African waters. But as they are far removed from their home bases, it is expected they will meet with difficulties of refuelling and supply, unless there should be a secret supply organisation near at hand, presumably afloat. The menace is being met.

PUNISH THE NAZI CRIMINALS NOW.

A SOVIET DEMAND.

For fifteen months, on vast tracks of Soviet soil, horrors and barbarities have been piling up against soldiers, prisoners and civilians. The cold-blooded deliberation of most of these outrages seems incredible to the people of Western Europe and the United States. Thousands and thousands of villages have been burned to the ground. Travelling westward along a road for not more than 80 miles from Moscow, I counted at least 50 villages of which nothing remains but gaunt brick chimney stacks. During the last few months, the populations remaining in the occupied areas have been deported wholesale by the enemy.

REIGN OF TERROR.

Throughout the Crimea, the Germans have set up a reign of terror. From Kerch most of the male population, including boys of 13 have been herded to Germany for labour. Many who have fallen by the wayside have promptly been shot. The population of Kerch is living on offal and bread made from grass. The mortality rate is terrific.

Almost every telegraph pole in Sebastopol has beome a gallows. Throughout the Crimea several thousand innocent people have been hanged for being "insufficiently hospitable" towards the invader, who takes everything—clothes, bedding, cattle, food and cash.

The sadism practised on soldiers of the Red Army is growing to alarming proportions. A few days ago, south of Stalingrad, a Soviet wounded prisoner was burned to death by the Germans before the eyes of hundreds of Soviet troops in trenches a few hundred yards away. The Gemans poured petrol over his clothes and set fire to them.

Soviet scouts have discovered many similar cases. These few incidents from thousands are all attested by witnesses.

It may safely be asserted that the Soviet people will not easily accept a Post-war situation which would allow the criminals directly and indirectly responsible for the wholesale savagery, which has ravaged a large part of Soviet Russia, to escape retribution in the fullest physical sense of the word.

The Soviet Government's note is a reminder that the punishment of the Nazi criminals and their bandit soldiers must become something more realistic than a mere "Hang the Kaiser" slogan.

OUR NAVAL DEFENCES.

ADMIRAL SIR HERBERT FITZHERBERT'S IMPRESSIONS.

GETTING BETTER EVERY DAY.

Madras, October 17.

Naval defence measures have been steadily growing stronger and stronger and there can be no fear that Madras would not be defended adequately. The defence measures are the best possible under the existing conditions.

I am well satisfied with what I have seen, and am particularly pleased that the welfare and comfort of the men have been kept in mind in connection with a new naval base that is fast approaching completion.

The progress of defence measures in Madras is well with that in other parts I have visited on my tour, a fact that I am well able to confirm, after a close inspection of the organisation of the three services in Madras.

ENEMY ACTION: WE ARE ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

Ships were being sunk all over the Indian Ocean. This could not be helped. Even in the Atlantic, heavy loss was being sustained owing to enemy action. I am glad to be able to say that the losses have been more than made good by new constructions in the shipyards of the United States and the United Kingdom. So we are on the right side. You cannot expect

to avoid casualties and losses due to enemy action, the object of which is to sink as many vessels as possible everywhere. So, we must expect losses. As our defences increase day by day our losses will be reduced.

There had been some losses in the Arabian Sea also, due to enemy submarine activity and it is likely that the losses may be graver before the end of the war. It is not possible to drive enemy submarines completely from these areas, but everything will be done to deal with them effectively wherever possible, until the Japanese think that the game is not worth their while.

CONVOYS.

It is not possible to give "sufficient protection" to convoys in view of the fact that "sufficient" ships are not available. But, in most cases, where it is possible, sufficient protection is given.

MINE SWEEPING.

Mine sweeping is known at all times to be a hazardous business, but it may be said that the officers and men do not seem to be dismayed in any way. On the other hand, they carry out their regular duties with cheerfulness and courage.

The limits, I saw, are in complete accord with the high standard of efficiency that I have found wherever I have visited.

RECRUITMENT.

Recruitment of both boys and men is going on in increasing numbers. Southern India affords a very good field for recruitment. The Indian public should know more about the Navy and its future. As at present very few of the four hundred million inhabitants of this country know anything about the Royal Indian Navy. The press should play a useful part in making people take sufficient interest in the Navy, and do all they could to build it up.

No discrimination is made in regard to recruitment to the Royal Indian Navy, which, is open to all who satisfied the regulations of the service. A number of women also has been recruited as in other services and they are doing excellent work.

It is efficiency that counts in the Navy more than anything else. There is now a wonderful opportunity for India's youth to join the Navy and help the country. It cannot be said what the future of the Royal Indian Navy will be as there may be some retrenchment after the war, but, I am sure, India will never be allowed to relapse into the pre-war state.

THE NAVY.

The Navy is protecting India's sea-borne trade and guarding the several harbours. It should be remembered that the value of the sea-borne trade every year is about Rs. 600 crores, and the Navy afforded it sufficien

protection. India is an island as regards trade. On the north there are the Himalayas over which there could be no trade. Being an island, India will not be able to get on without a Navy. Once it was said that India could not afford it and she looked to the Royal Navy to do the job for her. I think the time is now come for India to stand on her own "naval feet" without considering for a moment the expenses in that connection. The Indian Navy is increasing in strength every day and one fine day it will surely have enough ships.

TORPEDO SCHOOL.

A new torpedo school will be opened at Kathiawar—a great advance—and the candidates to be trained there would be placed on a par with those of the Royal Navy. Royal Indian Navy schools have been opened in large numbers, and the standard of efficiency in all of them is high.

WIRELESS STATIONS.

The Royal Indian Navy now mans quite a large number of wireless stations which have hitherto been under the charge of the Royal Navy.

This is no doubt, a feather in the cap of the Royal Indian Navy, which has attained such a high standard, that the Admiralty thought they could safely entrust several stations to them.

SHIP BUILDING.

Ship building is going on as fast as it can. When one ship leaves the docks the keel for another is laid. To-day India manufactures the propelling machinery for new ships. This also is a decidedly new enterprise in this country.

VIZAGAPATAM.

I am happy to say that I am satisfied with the progress I have noticed in all matters connected with the defence arrangements at Vizagapatam. A definite advance has been made in recent months. I have found a splendid spirit everywhere I have gone.

MARTIAL PUNJAB.

(*Viceregal Tribute.*)

Wherever there is talk of brave deeds and soldier-like qualities, of endurance and fortitude, the men of this land are brought to mind. Since the dawn of history, India has bred famous soldiers, the hills and plains which surround us can justly claim to be a cradle of heroes, a soil which has nourished the flower of India's armies. There are among us to-day brave men

who fought for freedom and civilization in the last world war, and now that these two precious jewels are in peril once again, their sons and grandsons are keeping bright and sharp the sword they forged, and are facing our common enemies with the same stout shield.

On every battlefield of this war, where our armies are fighting and have fought, Punjabis have won fresh laurels ; in France and the Middle East, in East Africa, in the Far East and in Burma. And where our armies stand on guard, or eagerly await the order to attack, there are Punjabis to be found, valiant wardens of their native land and loyal upholders of the United Nations' cause.

THE TASK AHEAD.

I believe that our soldiers will also find (in this service) something of great value in the task which will still face us all, once victory is ours ; the task of setting to rights a shattered and disjointed world. They will have discovered a unity of purpose and of endeavour. Such unity, though it may sometimes seem to be hidden unfathomably deep in India, is not, I believe, really so far below the surface. Certainly the war is, day by day, developing a very real sense of its urgency, and importance in the minds of all thinking men. And among India's fighting men the comradeship and loyalty of the battlefield will have engendered so strong a sense of unity with their brothers in arms not only of Indian race, but of all peoples of the united Nations too, that, please God, when fighting is over, it will remain as one of the fruits of victory to inspire and illumine all our endeavours in the post-war world with a spirit of co-operation and goodwill.

NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

I have said before that in modern warfare the battle front is of indefinite depth. It runs through the homes and lives of all of us, and there is not a man, woman or child that cannot play a useful part. War, as you know, is not all fighting. Much of it has always been the unspectacular business of watching and waiting, of training and preparation of co-operation in a thousand different ways behind the lines. In modern warfare particularly, a very important part is the attitude of mind of the peoples engaged, soldiers and civil population alike ; a sense of realities, a determination never to yield to despair or impatience, which we call morale. The National War Front in India, a movement which is gaining in strength from day to day, provides an opportunity for every one of us to bear a share in building up and maintaining that spirt of confidence, resolution and co-operation throughout the country, which is such a powerful support for the solidier in the front line.

May I remind you, too, that many who have to remain at home can admirably support the men who are fighting by looking after their interests, by helping the families of men who have gone overseas, by succouring the wounded and comforting the bereaved.

A DUSSARA MESSAGE TO INDIANS OVERSEAS IN JAPANESE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES.

(*Mr. M. S. Aney*).

In the silence following battle you may feel that you have been forgotten, that we are busy with other things, and that we do not spare a thought for you. Nothing could be further from the truth. We know more than you imagine. Keen eyes are watching, and we take full account of the crimes against you, of which your oppressors are guilty. In Malaya they have given you no work, and no pay. The little food they allow you is barely enough for your sustenance. They have looted your shops, and stores and, confiscated your businesses. Those of you who are still permitted to trade are taxed in all sorts of ways, so that what little is left to you hardly suffices to buy a bag of rice.

The Japanese have taken, and will continue to take, what they want for themselves, and it is no concern of theirs if your bag of rice costs you 40 or 50 dollars. Some of your leaders, we know, mistakenly thought the Japanese were sincere in their talk of freedom and liberty. They have discussed these things in Bangkok and in Tokyo itself. Now they know, as you do, that Japanese promises are as false as the paper money they have issued.

IN BURMA.

In Burma there has been the same story of looting, exploitation and false promises. What you had has been taken away and, except where it is for their own ends the Japanese will not permit you to replace what you have last.

In all countries you can now see, for yourselves, what the Japanese plan really is. It is to dominate you by fear, by brutality and by ruthlessness. They have stolen, they have robbed, they have murdered, and they have outraged. These are things you will not forget. Rest assured we shall not forget them either.

You stand together with those gallant people in so many countries, in Russia, in China, in Poland, in Norway, who have felt the might of the aggressor, but whose spirit has never been daunted. The time is coming when we, from India, will be with you again to bring your final liberation. Till then, resist ; refuse the enemy your help, obstruct his preparations for defence, destroy his communications, and impede his supplies. United we shall destroy him and drive him from his temporary spoils.

WITH FREE MEN.

Indians in Ceylon, in Fiji, in Mauritius, in Africa and elsewhere are all caught up in the vast struggle that is now increasing in intensity between free

men and those who would enslave them, in that struggle India's place on the side of free men is clear, and she yields to none in her determination to see freedom prevail.

Like other countries, we have our own weakenesses to overcome. But now, and in the great days of victory, which we can now discern ahead of us, is our finest opportunity, when men of good-will all the world over are bending their energies to the establishment of a new charter of freedom. In that task you, our representatives in other countries, will have a great part to play. We must shed all narrow prejudices, forget all internal differences, and united make India's contribution to lasting peace, in the firm belief that the aspirations of India to have her legitimate position in the comity of free nations can fully be realised, on the success of the cause of democracy and freedom.

The message I send you is a message of victory, not merely the victory of arms, which is so surely approaching, but the victory of all free men in a new world of freedom, peace and goodwill.

INDIAN TROOPS ARE HAPPY

(*Sir Azizul Haque, B. B. C. Broadcast, London, Oct. 13*).

As I spoke to the Indian Troops I looked into their eyes to see whether the nightmare of Dunkirk lurked in their depth. Their eyes looked straight into mine, clear, laughing, brave eyes with no shadows behind them.

Those laughing eyes seemed to say 'Halla Bhayya (brother). What news of India and our homes have you for us?' No, there were no shadows of fear in those eyes. They are a very happy band of men in excellent health. When I visited them they were quite snug and comfortable.

For sleeping they have Arctic sleeping bags. There are mess tents where they can eat their meals. Each unit camp has a big tent which is specially kept reserved as a mosque with an attending Imam attached. I was pleased to meet the Maulvi Sahebs of all these camps who minister to the religious needs of the men.

Their Commanding Officer spoke highly of them and of their work. Like a proud father, he showed off his smartly turned out men.

What struck me most was their unfailing cheerfulness and also the fact that though it was the month of Ramzan and every man was scrupulously observing the fast, all of them were carrying on with their ordinary work and training, starting at six o'clock in the morning until late in the afternoon with an hour's break in the middle of the day.

POPULAR AMONG PEOPLE.

Though Jowans profess not to be able to speak English while in camp I was told that they are very popular among the civilian population of the district. Some of the men even spend their week's leave in the homes of friends they have made among the local people. Every three months, batches of men get seven days' leave.

Usually most of them come to London in parties of 30. They stay in the Shah Jehan Mosque, a few miles outside London. My happiness was complete when on my way back in the train a gentleman paid a handsome tribute to our men.

"These boys are really fine. We are happy to have them in our midst".

ENGLAND A YEAR AGO AND TO-DAY.

(*Allan Nevins, Professor of American History, Columbia University.*)

Worse or better? This question fills the observer's mind on his return to Britain after a year's absence. Is food scantier? Is the clothing supply uncomfortably low? Have transportation, lighting, mails and other public services deteriorated? What has happened to the nation's morale under additional months of nervous strain, exhausting effort and loss of life? These are serious questions, for Britain in 1941 lived close to the margins of her strength.

Yet it is soon plain that a reassuring answer can be given. Internal economy has held its own. In some respects ground has even been gained. While British war production has been kept on a level which America only in recent weeks equalled, the island has adjusted itself more effectively to its tremendous burdens, remedied some of the most grievous hardships and perceptibly reduced nervous tension. If Britain faces the present situation with less exaltation than when she was fighting the Axis alone, she looks to the end of the war with firmer confidence and to the ensuing peace with brighter hope.

NEATNESS AND ORDER.

A year ago when I left England, the mid-summer sun shone on cities where evidence of just-ended raids lay in great heaps of rubble, some exhaling the acrid odour of smoke, some the ghastlier stench of death. Now the debris has been cleared away and English neatness and order have been so well restored that one often passes unnoticed a spot where huge bombs had fallen. A year ago everyone took for granted that the trains would be late. To-day they are punctuality itself. A year ago London looked half desolate, now it is

so crowded and busy that living quarters are hard to find. A year ago everyone talked nervously about food, for when warehouses filled with stores had gone up in flames, when distribution from certain ports was disorganized at a time when communal eating places were few, food was worrisome if adequate. To-day the national diet is more abundant and so well assured that nobody is preoccupied with it.

Life still has many minor inconveniences, a few graver hardships and, where raiders pounce, occasional dangers. But it is much less bleak than trans-Atlantic newspaper readers would suppose. Reports have been circulated to Americans that the British lack soap, but a glance at a few shop windows dispels the idea. While soap is rationed, as one Briton remarked "We've enough to wash elephants".

Shabbiness in dress was becoming evident in 1941. It hasn't increased and perhaps is even less noticeable. In the first year of clothes rationing just ended, the drop in sales was under 10 per cent by value, 20 per cent by quantity. People have continued to buy clothes almost as before rationing; while stocks of men's wear remained nearly constant and women's wear increased. More of both sexes are uniformed and ordinary folk have more time than in the Blitz period to look after their appearance.

TWO PRESSURES.

Everywhere are evidences of the two great pressures of the war—on materials and on man-power and women-power. Signs shout at you to economize. "Waste-paper must not be thrown away, destroyed or mixed with refuse", reads a notice on all rubbish bins, with a list of the penalties. "Is your journey necessary?" demands a placard above every ticket seller's window. Newspapers advertising a variety of wares carry, alongside, the picture of a citizen and his wife looking at shop windows across a raging torrent, wherein a swastika-marked shark bares razor teeth, and the rebuking caption "Would you buy if you had to swim for it?". "Turn Down the Gas", exhorts another advertisement. Britain is reminded that if everybody wastes half an ounce of bread daily a convoy of thirty freighters must brave the Atlantic both ways for more wheat.

Metal articles particularly show the insatiable demands of war factories. Woolworth contains almost everything, even crumbled mushroom spawn, for people who have nothing but a cellar for a garden, but it has little metal. One can buy toothbrushes a plenty, but collar buttons require some search. Shaving brushes are abundant but blades scarce. Questions are asked in Parliament about baby carriages, and bicycles are growing so precious that even *The Times* fulminates against their theft. Yet men kept shaved, even if they have revitalized the joke about the Scot who was asked " What do you do with your old razor blades?" " Shave with them". They keep their shoes neat even if nobody believes in the engaging sign, " Shoe repairs in five days."

LABOUR SITUATION.

Labour is as scarce as materials, and grows scarcer. Of 8,000,000 women registered for war employment, railroads employ over 50,000. Nevertheless journeys are made difficult by the absence of anybody to give directions where platforms swarm with people given a few minutes to change trains at crowded junctions. Taxicabs sway under six to eight people at rush hours, for drivers to make up parties going in the same general direction.

Teachers in rural areas complain of the rising rate of truancy, for farmers insist children are needed in the fields. Postal collections have been restricted. Arriving at a big northern shipbuilding town, I was told that the Mayor might be late in introducing me to the audience, for he worked as an engine driver from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., after which he took up his mayoral duties. London clubs make members serve themselves cafeteria-style breakfasts. Under the demand for labour many look more tired than they did a year ago. Under the double burden of office or factory work in the daytime, and firewatching, home guard and other community service in the night, many are desperately tired. There is a general agreement that Government officers in Whitehall must be forced to take a week's holiday, yet somehow labour seems better adjusted to the nation's task than it was a year ago.

FORTUNES OF WAR.

(*General Wilson.*)

According to General Wavell one of the requisites of a good commander is that he should be lucky. The fortunes of war, meant the manner in which events worked to the advantage of a belligerent by such trivial agencies as the action of an individual, the character of the adversary, the finding of a piece of paper or the weather. He cited the changing wind to which Joan of Arc owed her success in Orleans; Moltke's illness, which contributed to the halting of the German army before Paris in the last war; and the calm weather in May 1940 which allowed the embarkation of the B. E. F. at Dunkirk.

Where the fates of nations and the lives of individuals are at stake, one cannot rely for certain on winning a battle. On the other hand, if the plan for operations is too rigid, it cannot be rapidly adjusted to meet changes of fortune. A commander's plan should, therefore, be sufficiently flexible to enable him to take full advantage of any good turn, and at the same time to counter any bad turn in the fortunes of war.

JUNGLE FIGHTING.

Australian troops in New Guinea are now beating the Japanese in the art of jungle warfare, cables the *Daily Mail* Melbourne correspondent.

Tricks and tactics of Japan's specially trained soldiers which served them so well in Malaya are now being applied against them in the rain-soaked tangled growth on the slopes of the Owen-Stanley Mountains.

Lessons of Malaya have been absorbed and Australians, specially trained to fight in the thickly wooded islands of the South Pacific, are now beating the Japanese at their own game. They are putting into practice ideas of their own which have improved on the Japanese tactics and are no longer a prey to surprise attacks, ambushes and cunning infiltration and encirclement.

THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK.

THE PRIME OBJECT.

Mr. W. Nash, Minister, New Zealand

Boston, Oct., 17.

However vital the Pacific may be, the prime object of the war must be to strike at the heart of the Axis Powers, and that heart is undoubtedly located in Berlin. It is extremely doubtful whether the Japanese without Hitler could ever achieve any permanent success.

A NATION'S DUTY.

Chiaing Kai-Shek

Chungking, Oct., 18.

When a Nation is at war it is as much the duty of the people to contribute to the war chest as that of the troops at the front to fight courageously against the enemy.

END "PRUSSIAN TRADITION".

Dr. William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury.

London, Oct., 18.

There ought to be such an expression of moral condemnation of the recent German policy as cannot fail to bring home to the German people what is the moral judgment of the world concerning them.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

1942— **LECTURE CXVIII**—(*Batch 4*).

October ...	24, Saturday ...	Municipal Office quadrangle.	7.45 p. m.
	25, Sunday ...	Nirpalani ...	7.00 p. m.
		Avoor ...	7.30 p. m.
	26, Monday ...	P. Puduppatti ...	7.00 p. m.
		Vendampatti ...	7.30 p. m.
	27. Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
		Karaiyur ...	7.00 p. m.
		Idaiyattur ...	7.30 p. m.
	28. Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
		College Tamil (Branch School.)	10.15 a. m.
		Vadavalam ...	7.00 p. m.
		Sammattividuthi ...	7.30 p. m.
	29, Thursday ...	Nartamalai ...	7.00 p. m.
		Uppiliyakkudi ...	7.30 p. m.
	30, Friday ...	Andakkulam ...	7.00 p. m.
		Killanur ...	7.30 p. m.

LECTURE CXIX—(*Batch 5*).

	31, Saturday ...	Municipal Office quadrangle.	7.45 p. m.
November	1, Sunday ...	Kulavoippatti ...	7.00 p. m.
		Kilaiyur (South) ...	7.30 p. m.
	2, Monday ...	Tirumayyam ...	7.00 p. m.
		Melur ...	7.30 p. m.
	3, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
		Pallivasal ...	7.00 p. m.
		Pillamangalam ...	7.30 p. m.
	4, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
		College Tamil (Branch School)	10.15 a. m.
		Tiruvarangulam ...	7.00 p. m.
		Vamban ...	7.30 p. m.
	5, Thursday ...	Puliyur ...	7.00 p. m.
		Kannangudi ...	7.30 p. m.

THE FOLLOWING PLACES WILL BE VISITED BY THE ADVERTISING PARTY OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU FROM 4 P. M. TO 5 P. M. ON THE DAYS NOTED BELOW. THE STATE BAND WILL PLAY; POSTERS WILL BE EXHIBITED; AND HAND-BILLS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AND EXPLAINED.

Saturday	...	24—10—42	...	Vettamviduthi.
Sunday	...	25—10—42	...	Embal.
Monday	...	26—10—42	...	Konnaiyur.
Tuesday	...	27—10—42	...	Kudumiyamalai.
Wednesday	...	28—10—42	...	Kilanilai–Puduppatti.
Thursday	...	29—10—42	...	Alangudi.
Friday	...	30—10—42	...	Pappapatti.
Saturday	...	31—10—42	...	Ponnamaravathi.
Sunday	...	1—11—42	...	Kodumbalur.
Monday	...	2—11—42	...	Kiranur.
Tuesday	...	3—11—42	...	Vadagadu.
Wednesday	...	4—11—42	...	Rayavaram.
Thursday	...	5—11—42	...	Kulipirai.
Friday	...	6—11—42	...	Pudukkottai.

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